

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Withdrawn): A method of field-dressing an animal carcass, comprising the steps of:

providing a reciprocating saw having a blade extending through a housing;

providing a guard having a blade seal;

attaching the guard to the housing by passing the blade through the blade seal;

field-dressing the animal carcass with the reciprocating saw, wherein debris is prevented from entering the housing by the guard.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 32, wherein the reciprocating saw is a battery-powered saw.

Claim 34 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 32, further comprising the step of:

detaching the guard from the reciprocating saw by pulling the blade through the blade seal.

Claim 35 (New): A guard for a reciprocating saw having a blade, comprising:
a generally planar seal portion defining an aperture configured to allow the blade to extend therethrough, such that the seal portion is sealingly engageable with the blade at the aperture; and
an attachment portion extending from the seal portion, the attachment portion configured for retention on an exterior of the reciprocating saw.

Claim 36 (New): The guard, according to claim 35, wherein the attachment portion exhibits a thickness greater than a thickness of the seal portion.

Claim 37 (New): The guard, according to claim 35, wherein the attachment portion is configured to be retained on the exterior of the reciprocating saw by friction.

Claim 38 (New): The guard, according to claim 35, wherein the attachment portion is configured to be removably attachable to the exterior of the reciprocating saw.

Claim 39 (New): A reciprocating saw, comprising:

- a housing;
- a motor disposed in the housing;
- a saw blade extending from the housing and operably coupled with the motor;

and

- a guard member, comprising:
 - a generally planar seal portion defining an aperture through which the blade extends, such that the seal portion sealingly engages the blade at the aperture; and
 - an attachment portion extending from the seal portion, the attachment portion retained on an exterior of the housing.

Claim 40 (New): The reciprocating saw, according to claim 39, wherein the attachment portion exhibits a thickness greater than a thickness of the seal portion.

Claim 41 (New): The reciprocating saw, according to claim 39, wherein the blade is configured for field-dressing an animal carcass.

Claim 42 (New): The reciprocating saw, according to claim 39, wherein the saw blade is configured to cut bone.

Claim 43 (New): The reciprocating saw, according to claim 39, further comprising:

a battery operably coupled with the motor.

Claim 44 (New): The reciprocating saw, according to claim 39, wherein the guard member inhibits flesh, hair, bone, water, and blood from entering the housing.

Claim 45 (New): The reciprocating saw, according to claim 39, further comprising:

a second saw blade operably associated with the motor and extending from the housing and through the guard member.

Claim 46 (New): The reciprocating saw, according to claim 39, wherein the guard member is removably attachable to the exterior of the housing.